MEETING LOG DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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143 Jul 12 A 5:50

SUBJECT:

Juvenile Products, ASTM F15 Subcommittees

LOCATION:

ASTM Headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA

DATE:

May 20 - 22, 2002

ENTRY DATE:

June 10, 2002

LOG ENTRY

SOURCE:

Patricia L. Hackett

COMMISSION

ATTENDEES:

Patricia Hackett, Scott Heh, Jonathan Midgett, Carolyn

Meiers, John Murphy, Caroleene Paul, Susan Perkins

NON-COMMISSION

ATTENDEES:

Various ASTM Subcommittee members

(refer to ASTM meeting minutes for details)

MEETING

SUMMARY:

See Attached summary by date and meeting.

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May 20, 2002:

Infant Swings - Subcommittee discussions clarified wording in the standard distinguishing between "infant swings" and "cradle swings." A new incident involving a child submarining through a leg opening was discussed. Battery leakage and reverse polarity problems were reviewed. The committee will look into the toy standard for guidance. The finger entrapment prevention specifications were added to the standard as well.

Stationary Activity Centers - Subcommittee reported on developmental milestones that should be used for product labeling. Usage can begin when children can hold their head up unassisted and stop when they begin to walk.

Soft and Frame Infant Carriers - Subcommittee requested the CPSC provide any new incidents involving infant carriers.

Hand-Held Infant Carriers - Subcommittee discussed the CPSC incidents involving carriers placed on soft, pillowy surfaces. The committee asked the CPSC to consider requiring 'date of manufacture' being asked for when an incident is reported. Committee discussed a single incident involving the use of a carrier as a bath seat. Discussed issue of soft-sided products, i.e., the 'Moses-basket' types of carriers. CPSC was asked to provide any incidents involving 'Moses-basket' type carriers.

Infant Bouncers - A committee member showed a multi-use product that converted from a bouncer to a child's chair and raised the question of whether that product could be certified as a bouncer even though it is used as a chair later in its life.

Walkers - Subcommittee discussed cleanliness of stair-stopping friction strips on walkers and whether it affects performance. A task group will report findings at the next meeting. The CPSC reminded the committee that the durability of the friction strips is an important issue because one incident involved a missing friction strip.

Changing Tables - Subcommittee discussed the test and the head probe for testing moveable components. A task group was formed to continue wording development. CPSC reported on incidents of children falling off of contoured changing pads, specifically children pushing with their heels and falling out the top of a changing pad, rather than over the raised sides. Alternative warning labels were presented and the wording favored by the CPSC was selected.

May 21, 2002:

Bath Seats - Subcommittee discussed new incidents and heard task group reports. The slip-resistant warning group proposed wording, visibility requirements, and definitions of 'slip-resistance.' The age-grading task group recommended using the milestone of sitting up unassisted for the lower age recommendation and pulling to a standing position as the upper age recommendation. This is equivalent to a numerical age of approximately 5 to 10 months. The leg opening task group decided to leave the dimensions originally presented because they are the most stringent choice available from anthropometric data. The aging of attachment mechanisms task group reported that no differences were found between old and new suction cups, so the committee decided to not address this issue in the standard. The stability task group reported that no suction cups will reliably hold on slip-resistant tubs and that the committee should consider requiring stability on slip-resistant tubs. Selecting appropriate specifications for tub testing surfaces is continuing.

Bed Rails - The subcommittee discussed negative votes to the latest ballot. Among the larger topics discussed, but voted non-persuasive, were issues of whether the test probe should be specified for "rigidity" or "smoothness", the perceived lack of consensus on the ballot, and whether the Use and Abuse testing should be specified. Several minor points were added to the standard, such as section 1.4 and the finger entrapment prevention specification. Other discussions about the variability of fitted cotton sheets and their unknown effects on the testing led to the formation of a task group to examine whether or not fitted sheets will affect the test. A negative comment about the test method using platform 3 which simulates a bunk bed or spindle frame bed led to comments from some members that the warning label forbidding the use of bed rails with such products contradicted the testing in the standard. Members suggested either removing the label or omitting platform 3 tests. This was voted persuasive and a task group was formed to examine the warning labels and new wording. Not all of the negative votes were reviewed and an interim meeting was committed to, although not scheduled, for some time in August.

High Chairs - A minor change in wording was accepted to prevent misunderstanding of the rod test for the crotch post. CPSC reported findings from the restraint project report. New incidents suggest the need to limit tray-release accessibility but more information is needed to determine how children are reaching the releases. A task group was formed to examine the issue and recommend effective restraint systems.

Carriages and Strollers - Collapsing incidents often involve a curb or some other obstacle, so the committee considered a test to oscillate the front and back wheels of a stroller loaded with 40 pounds in the seat and 10 pounds in the basket. Impact tests were also considered. Discussion of incidents involving children sliding out the top of the stroller seat led to clarification of "enclosures." The committee approved a hinged-board method of testing the recline angle of a stroller seat. A task group will check the wording of how to include a minimum crotch strap anchor point dimension. The restraint test requiring a vertical pull on a CAMI dummy was recommended by the CPSC and a manufacturers will test this method against the old rotational test to compare.

May 23, 2002:

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Expandable Gates and Enclosures - The committee discussed negative votes and affirmative comments. A member will draft a definition of what "accessible" means in relation to latching and locking mechanisms. The group voted that the push test of 100 pounds was excessive on the attachment points of the test fixture and formed a task group to ascertain how the test can be done without breaking small components of the gates. The committee debated whether it was possible to form a reliable pull test. NEISS data showed only a quarter of injuries involving gates were to children under age 2. At least half are to teens and adults. The CPSC presented hardware failure incident data involving latches failing, however, it was not a controlled data extraction. The CPSC will provide any incidents involving gates used with banisters.

Infant Bedding - Committee debated the proposed warning label. Some members believed the wording to be too strong and the 12 month age limit to be arbitrary and too old. Some preferred 7 to 8 months instead of an upper limit of 12. Other discussions about fitted sheet testing showed sufficiently reliable data. Knitted sheets did not produce significantly different results. Round robin testing on sheets to continue. The committee discussed a new incident involving a sheet retention accessory. Bumper pad ties were discussed and the CPSC reiterated that the Commission remains neutral about tie recommendations until further data suggests a need to reexamine the issue. Chenille used in a crib environment concerns some members because it can be pulled apart by infants and swallowed.

Cribs - The committee discussed adding the requirements of F966 to F1169 and creating a corner post extension section in the standard. Discussion of the shape of the corner post raised questions about whether or not a cut-out in a molding could catch clothing. The CPSC was asked to provide any incidents involving strings or clothing catching in small cracks, like the toggle test employed in playground standards.

Bassinets/Cradles - The committee discussed negative votes and affirmative comments to the ballot. Minor editorial changes were accepted. Issues of finger entrapment prevention specifications and the color-contrast and conspicuity of warnings in instructional literature was deferred to the next ballot. The accepted wording becomes a standard on June 10th. Side height recommendations were discussed and debated as excessive, given that only several incidents exist where a child fell out of a bassinet and the side heights of the units in those incidents are unknown. The CPSC was asked to check other country's side height requirements. The sleep position statement was presented and will be included in next ballot.

Play Yards - The committee discussed and accepted minor editorial changes. The warning against run-on warnings was debated and changed to advise being "readily understood." The warning requiring supervision was altered to address a general recommendation for adult supervision and a specific recommendation when the unit is used for playing. The effects of cords and graspable components were debated and a task group will examine wording to address cords. The CPSC was asked to provide any incident data involving cords on or in play yards.

Toddler Beds - The committee discussed negative votes and affirmatives with comments. Minor editorial changes were accepted. The requirement for manufacturer telephone numbers was debated and left in the standard. The current ballot will go to the main committee.